

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

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FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

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INFO AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

USLO PEKING

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 14922

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, TH, CH

SUBJ: SPORTS AND RTG POLICIES TOWARD CHINA

REF: A. FBIS BANGKOK D180235Z SEP 73

B. JAKARTA 11211

C. KUALA LUMPUR 4196

D. TAIPEI 5809

E. JAKARTA 11258

SUMMARY: TO FACILITATE THE CAUTIOUS REALIGNMENT OF ITS POLICIES TOWARD THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA (PRC), THAILAND IS SUPPORTING PRC ADMISSION TO VARIOUS INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, SUCH AS THE UNITED NATIONS. SINCE THE RTG SHOWS NO SIGNS OF ABANDONING THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA, RTG POLICY IS INCONSISTENTLY IMPLEMENTED.

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ANOTHER TEST OF RTG POLICY TOWARD CHINA CAME DURING THE

SEPTEMBER 19 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING OF THE ASIAN GAMES FEDERATION (AGF). WHILE THE RTG HAD ANNOUNCED ITS SUPPORT OF THE PRC ADMISSION BEFORE THE MEETING, IT APPARENTLY DID NOT EXPECT ROC MEMBERSHIP TO BE TERMINATED. THAILAND, MALAYSIA, INDONESIA AND THE ROC, APPARENTLY OUTMANEUVERED BY THE MAJORITY ON A MOTION TO REFER THE ISSUE TO THE LARGER AGF COUNCIL, STAGED A WALK OUT JUST BEFORE THE VOTE WHICH ADMITTED THE PRC AND DROPPED THE ROC. END SUMMARY.

1. AS PART OF ITS CAUTIOUS RAPPROACHMENT WITH THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA (PRC), THAILAND HAS MADE A NUMBER OF PUBLIC STATEMENTS THAT IT WILL SUPPORT PRC ADMISSION TO VARIOUS INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, ESPECIALLY THOSE CONNECTED WITH THE UNITED NATIONS. REFERENCE A IS A TYPICAL EXAMPLE QUOTING "WELL INFORMED" SOURCES AS SAYING THAT THE RTG WILL NOT VOTE AGAINST ANY PRC PROPOSALS IN THE COMING UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY. AN AUTHORITATIVE SOURCE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS (MFA) SAID THAT IN GENERAL ON THE CHINA REPRESENTATION ISSUE, THE RTG INTENDS TO VOTE FOR PRC ADMISSION TO ORGANIZATIONS, VOTE "NO" TO PROPOSALS TO OUST THE ROC, AND ABSTAIN IF THERE IS A PACKAGE DEAL.

2. THE RTG, WHILE PUBLICIZING ITS SUPPORT OF THE PRC, STILL TAKES AN ECLECTIC APPROACH TO EACH NEW CIRCUMSTANCE. BEFORE THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE ASIAN GAMES FEDERATION (AGF) CONVENED, BANGKOK NEWSPAPERS WIDELY REPORTED THAT THE RTG WOULD SUPPORT PRC ADMISSION. WE KNOW FROM A RANKING MFA OFFICIAL THAT THE THAI DELEGATION WAS INSTRUCTED, IN PART, TO ABSTAIN ON ANY RESOLUTION WHICH ADMITTED THE PRC, BUT DROPPED THE ROC. SINCE FIELD MARSHAL PRAPHAT CHARUSATHIEN, IN HIS ROLE AS PRESIDENT OF THE THAI NATIONAL OLYMPIC COMMITTEE, WAS QUOTED IN THE SEPTEMBER 18 ISSUE OF "THE NATION" AS FAVORING THE PARTICIPATION OF BOTH CHINAS IN THE ASIAN GAMES, IT IS POSSIBLE THAT THE RTG STRATEGY WAS TO GET CREDIT FOR APPROVING PRC PARTICIPATION, BUT ON A RESOLUTION WHICH DID NOT AFFECT THE STATUS OF THE ROC. PRIME MINISTER THANOM KITTIKACHORN REITERATED THIS STAND IN HIS PRESS CONFERENCE OF SEPTEMBER 19 WHEN HE

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SAID THAT THAILAND SUPPORTED PRC ADMISSION, BUT TOTALLY DISAPPROVED THE EXPULSION OF THE ROC.

3. A WELL PLACED SOURCE IN THE MFA TOLD US THAT THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING WENT POORLY BECAUSE "WE HAD NOT COORDINATED OUR POSITIONS." THE STRONG DRIVE HEADED BY THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN IRAN, AND BACKED BY A MAJORITY OF THE VOTES, MAY HAVE PREEMPTED

A Milder two China resolution desired by Thailand and others. In the minority, and perhaps unprepared for the strong Iranian stand, the RTG delegation took the position that the Executive Committee was exceeding its authority and that the question of membership could only be handled by the full 20 Nation AGF Council. The Thai, Malaysian, Indonesian and Chinese delegations, defending themselves with this line of thinking, walked out of the meeting before the vote which passed the Iranian resolution accepting the All-China Sports Federation in Peking as representing China.

4. CONCLUSIONS: The RTG is hesitantly experimenting with policies aimed at ingratiating itself with the PRC without giving too much ground. This dichotomy of approach is likely to result in future dilemmas, similar to the recent AGF meeting, in which the RTG may occasionally be gored.
MASTERS

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